

institutions where one copy of the Bulletin was read by a large number of people, and most publications charged a rate up to five times that to individual members for such subscriptions. The Committee was, however, anxious not to deter subscriptions by institutions which were interested but suffering severe financial constraints. The Meeting approved a subscription to such institutions of 2.5 times the individual rate and authorized the Officers to implement this in the most appropriate way.

8. The Editor, Dr N.C. Davidson, reported that sufficient material was now arriving to fill a Bulletin of up to 52 pages, but that it had not been necessary to hold over any items for reasons of shortage of space. Findings of the questionnaire circulated in 1982 have been acted upon, including turning the Ringing Totals listing into an annual feature, and extending its coverage to allow easier inclusion of totals from outside Europe.

The Editor expressed his regret over the delays in appearance of recent Bulletins. These were due to a combination of the gradually increasing volume of material, the availability of time of those involved in the production coupled with the need to remain topical, and delays at the circulation stage. The Officers were examining thoroughly the whole production process of the Bulletin, and were hopeful of considerable improvement in the near future.

The Editor reported on informal discussions between himself, the North American Editor (Dr J.P. Myers) and the Vice-Chairman during a recent visit to Britain by Dr Myers. Among matters raised had been the question as to whether the name of the Bulletin might be changed to encourage wider appreciation of its contents. "Wader Research" or "Shorebird Research", retaining the present title as a subtitle, were two possibilities on which

members' views were invited. The Meeting was very strongly against any such change. Reasons for this were the increasingly well-established reputation of the Bulletin under its present name and the fact that the term "wader" is better understood in many non-English-speaking countries than is "shorebird".

9. The Co-ordinator, Th. Piersma, highlighted from his report the renovation and revision of the Advisory Panel, to reflect the changes in membership of the Group in recent years. Although for practical reasons, such as the production of the Bulletin by voluntary labour, it was necessary to have several officers in one country, he wished to make sure - as did the other Officers - that the British were kept in order by a Panel with wide representation. He envisaged that the Panel would play an important part in future co-operative projects.

10. Other business. In response to further enquiries from several members, the Chairman reported that the Officers would be pursuing urgently the question of a Giro account which would ease payments by members in several European countries. The Officers apologised for the lack of progress on this matter; this had resulted partly from the lack of replies from the British National Girobank to numerous enquiries made by WSG over several years.

11. Future Meetings. Several Members from European countries confirmed the view expressed at the 1981 AGM in Munster, that it was appropriate, in view of the present composition of membership, for Annual Meetings to be held alternately in Britain and other European countries. The meeting gratefully accepted an invitation from French members to hold the 1985 AGM in Rochefort on a date to be agreed. The meeting asked the Officers to arrange a suitable venue and date in southern England in 1984.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WADER STUDY GROUP : WORCESTER, U.K., 1 SEPTEMBER 1984

The AGM of the Wader Study Group will take place during the 1984 WSG Conference to be held at Worcester College of Further Education (see elsewhere in this Bulletin).

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 19 November 1983 at Haamstede, Netherlands (see elsewhere in this Bulletin).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Editor's Report
7. Co-ordinator's Report
(Reports will be published in the August Bulletin)
8. Election of Secretaries
(Officers serve for 3 years and are eligible for re-election. The term of office of the Secretaries ends at this AGM.)

Because of the increasing work-load on the Secretaries, the Officers propose that the post be divided into (i) a Secretary and (ii) a Membership Secretary. Therefore, they propose Stephen Baillie as the Secretary and Nigel & Jacquie Clark to continue as joint Membership Secretaries, the occupants of both posts to be members of the Executive Committee.

Any other nominations should be received by the Chairman by 15 June 1984. Any such nominations should be accompanied by a statement from the nominee indicating that he or she is willing to stand for election and to serve if elected.)

9. Date and venue of next year's AGM: the Group has accepted an invitation from French members to Rochefort.

10. Any other business.

(Any member wishing to raise other items at the AGM should inform the Chairman in writing as soon as possible.)

WADER STUDY GROUP MEETING 1984 : WORCESTER , U.K., 31 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER

The WSG Annual General Meeting 1983 asked the Officers to find a location for the 1984 meeting in the south or east of Britain, to allow ease of transport by members from continental Europe. Suitable locations at low prices have proved rather difficult to find, but we have been fortunate to find accommodation at the Worcester College of Higher Education, Worcester, England. The meeting will be held from the evening of Friday 31 August until the afternoon of Sunday 2 September.

Worcester is situated in the south-western part of the English Midlands, astride Britain's largest river - the Severn. Renowned for Worcester Porcelain (now part of an international company) and Worcester Sauce (now engulfed in a national nonentity) and the manufacture of gloves, Worcester is a medium-sized cathedral city of moderate distinction! It suffers from the blight of suburban expansion, typical "high-street"

development and declining small industry. Nevertheless, in recent years more enlightened views have pedestrianised the High Street, thus removing an abomination of heavy traffic which had threatened to shake the Cathedral from its foundations. King John is buried in Worcester Cathedral, and King Charles I took shelter in an oak tree at the time of the Battle of Worcester. The Romans were (inevitably) involved in its foundations - Vigornia. The Guild Hall survives from the reign of Queen Anne, and a few old timber-framed buildings survive in back streets to remind us of our past.

Your Chairman has worked in Worcester since 1950 and is far too familiar with its mediocrities to do it any real justice! He tends to remember the traffic jams arising from the single bridge over the Severn, although a second new bridge is now being built and a new by-pass is under construction; this will improve matters. The M5 motorway runs north to south just east of the city. It was one of Britain's first motorways and it saved Worcester from complete death by traffic strangulation but, being the first, it has only two lanes in each direction. Summer 1984 sees the start of work to convert it to three lanes. The chaos which is bound to arise suggests that visitors should consult their maps for alternative pathways and enquire about the actual site of work before they venture on to the motorway! [Do not be deterred! - Worcester seems quite pleasant to me - Vice-Chairman]

The Worcester College of Higher Education is a "teacher training college" of repute. It lies in pleasant, fairly open, suburban surroundings on a 55 acre (about 20ha) site. The college accommodates up to 1500 students during term time. The accommodation is comfortable and WSG members will have single rooms unless they specifically request a double room. Bed linen will be provided. Meals will be "canteen style". There will be bar facilities - though not on this occasion run for the profit of WSG!

Programme

The programme of the meeting has yet to be arranged, but we hope to include contributions about the WSG/Birds of Estuaries Enquiry spring migration project 1984, studies on breeding waders, a review of information on breeding wader populations in Europe, a report from this year's expedition to Tunisia (which found very large numbers of wintering waders), another on studies of Black-tailed Godwits in the rice-fields of Senegal and Guinea Bissau, and a wide variety of other talks. Offers of talks are welcome; space is available for this on the booking form. Early offers stand the best chance of acceptance.

Cost

The programme will run from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon. We expect that most people will arrive Friday evening. However, flexible booking arrangements are possible, and accommodation will also be available on Sunday night for those who require it.

A fee of £1-00 to cover coffee, tea, etc. is payable by all participants. Apart from this, all accommodation and meals are available in any combination, as required. Each breakfast costs £2-00; lunch £2-59; supper £2-82; and overnight accommodation £8-05. The college will reduce overnight accommodation charges for students to £4-55. The prices include tax. Example costs from Friday supper to Sunday lunch would, therefore, be £24-92 each for a student, or £31-92 for others.

Bookings

Because of the earlier than usual date of the meeting, booking forms are enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin and should be returned (to Wader Study Group Conference, c/o Dept. of

Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, U.K.) by 31 July 1984. Payment should be sent with the booking (cheques payable to Wader Study Group) or, at the same time, by Giro to Account Number 471204404, marking details "Conference 84".

Travel

Worcester is fairly well served by railways. Travellers from continental ferry ports in the south-east of England are advised to travel by train to London, and then by London Underground train to British Rail Paddington Station, London. From here, trains depart to Worcester. Alternatively, there is a more frequent train service from London Euston station to Birmingham. There is a good train and bus service from Birmingham to Worcester. For those wishing to travel by air, London's international airports at Heathrow and Gatwick are about 6 hours away by rail (via London). Several international flights also use the nearer (and new) Birmingham Airport; from there, take the train to Birmingham and change trains (or take a bus) to Worcester. Further details of travel will be sent to those booking.

British Rail Conference fares are available to those attending. Details will be sent to those booking. Travellers from the Continent should note that train fares in Britain are generally higher than those which they will be used to, but conference fares will reduce the difference somewhat.

An invitation to The Wash

There will be no organized excursions associated with the Conference, partly because Worcestershire is not an area noted for waders. However, in the week immediately preceding the conference, the Wash Wader Ringing Group will be holding its annual week of ringing activities. The Group has kindly invited anyone interested in this remarkable phenomenon to join them. The catching week runs from Sunday 26 August to Friday 31 August, and anyone who wishes to take advantage of this information, for all or part of the week, should contact Phil Ireland, 27 Hainfield Drive, Solihull, West Midlands, U.K. (telephone 021 704 1168). Accommodation at the Wash will not be to the standard expected at Worcester College, and anyone joining WWRG's activities will need to bring their own sleeping bag. A charge of about £5 per day will be made to cover the cost of food, travelling whilst at the Wash, and bird-rings. It should be possible to arrange transport from the Wash to Worcester on the evening of Friday 31 August.

For those not besotted by waders, Worcester lies in pleasant countryside, especially to the west, where the land is hilly and well-wooded. There are pleasant places to visit for those wishing to wander in the somewhat rickety heart of rural England. The agricultural revolution has so far had only minimal effect here in the west, so anyone who has just experienced the barren cereal lands of East Anglia and the Wash hinterland will find west Worcestershire a pleasant respite. Your Chairman is deeply involved in the conservation of his county and can offer some ideas of places to visit, far, far away from bleak and muddy shores! [Readers will note that the Chairman is much happier when he gets out of even a small town.]

Bookshop

Two WSG members, Chris and Christine Johnson, now run a bookshop specializing in natural history books, both new and second-hand. They will be bringing a selection of their stock and setting up stall at the Conference. If anyone would like to see a catalogue in advance or ask for a particular book, they should contact the Johnsons: St. Ann's Bookshop, 2 St. Ann's Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire, U.K. (Telephone Malvern (06845) 62818).